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Agenda item 45
**Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)**

## Letter dated 15 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a note from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic (see annex) concerning the military exercises, including the launching of missiles from the Malvinas Islands, which the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland plans to conduct from 15 to 26 April 2013. This situation is creating unnecessary and unjustified tension in the South Atlantic, a nuclear-weapon-free zone characterized by its commitment to peace.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 45, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) María Cristina **Perceval**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 15 April 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you concerning the military exercises by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, including the firing of missiles from the Malvinas Islands, which are scheduled to take place from 15 to 26 April 2013. This situation is creating unnecessary and unjustified tension in the South Atlantic, a nuclear-weapon-free zone characterized by its commitment to peace.

As you are aware, on 14 February 2012, I expressed to you personally, as well as to the President of the United Nations Security Council and the President of the General Assembly, my country's concern over the British militarization of the South Atlantic, which includes the deployment of nuclear submarines with the capacity to transport nuclear weapons. Regrettably, the United Kingdom carried out missile exercises in the Malvinas Islands in June and August 2012. These circumstances were communicated by means of notes dated 7 August 2012 (A/66/884) and 5 October 2012 (S/2012/763).

These exercises form part of a long series of unilateral actions that the United Kingdom has carried out in violation of General Assembly resolution 31/49.

The Naval Hydrographic Service of the Argentine Republic, after assessing the seriousness of the risks to the safety of navigation posed by the British exercises, and in the framework of its duties and responsibilities as coordinator of Navarea VI, the navigation area covering the South-West Atlantic Ocean, immediately issued a radio navigational warning expressly reserving Argentina's sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

Argentina considers that this new unilateral British action is inadmissible and merely confirms that the United Kingdom can only justify its illegitimate presence in the South Atlantic through military might, which reflects its contempt for the pronouncements of the international community and, in particular, for the concern expressed in this regard by the entire region through multiple pronouncements of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), as well as the Ibero-American Summit, the South American and Arab Countries Summit and, recently, the Ministerial Meeting of the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic (ZPCSA), held in Montevideo in January 2013.

These repeated British military exercises in the South Atlantic underscore the urgent need for the United Kingdom to comply with its obligations as a State Member of the United Nations and in particular as a permanent member of the Security Council, and to agree to resume the negotiations in order to reach a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the Organization on the question of the Malvinas Islands. It is in this context that the mission of good offices entrusted to you by the General Assembly — which Argentina, as you are aware, strongly supports — is particularly relevant.

The Argentine Government protested against the conduct of these military exercises to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, demanding that it refrain from conducting them. Furthermore, this situation has been brought to the attention of the Chair of the United Nations Special Committee on decolonization, the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, the presidencies pro tempore of ZPCSA, MERCOSUR and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, and the General Secretariat of UNASUR. Representatives of the last three regional forums accompanied me to the meeting that I had with you on 26 March 2013, during which they conveyed the support of the countries of the region for the Argentine Republic's legitimate sovereignty rights over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas.

Argentina once again reiterates its permanent and constant willingness to negotiate, in accordance with United Nations provisions, and requests that this note be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Héctor **Timerman**
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Worship